

Meeting with your Legislator

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education



Art Delaune, Chair

January 2018 Council Meeting

Before the Meeting

- ⦿ Make sure that you have everything you need:
 - Talking Points
 - Business Cards
 - Camera
- ⦿ Find the *team leader* for your group
 - The team leader is in charge of bringing the legislative packet & taking notes
- ⦿ Decide *who* will discuss each topic
- ⦿ Arrive 5-10 minutes early
- ⦿ Check in with staff

In The Meeting

- ⦿ Introduction
- ⦿ Give the Legislative packet to the Legislator
- ⦿ Explain the issues
 - No more than 5 minutes per issue
- ⦿ When you are done talking, ask for a group photo with the Legislator
- ⦿ Thank them for their time & support of the Council

Introductions



- Mention if you live in his/ her district
- Make a personal connection, if any
 - <http://akleg.gov/> Provides some basic information on both members of the House & Senate
- Explain why you are involved with the Council

Explaining The Issues

- ⦿ Locate the information on the issue in the packet
- ⦿ Briefly describe the issue using talking points
- ⦿ Ask for their support
- ⦿ Ask if they have questions or if they need more information and let them know that one of the staff will be contacting them.

Meeting Do's & Don'ts

Do

- Turn off your phone
- Stay on topic
- Watch your time
- Pay attention to the Legislator/ team members
- Take notes on things to follow up on
- Show appreciation

Do Not

- Bring up unrelated topics
- Speak too long
- Provide answers to questions you don't know
- Interrupt Legislator or other group members
- Text/ talk on the phone
- Argue with the Legislator

After the Meeting

- ⦿ All teams go to REACH art studio after meeting to debrief
- ⦿ Debrief with GCDSE staff member
 - Was the Legislator for/ against any Council priorities?
 - Was any follow-up information requested?
 - Did you learn any interesting facts about the Legislator/ Legislative aide?
- ⦿ Complete the feedback form found in your packet and return to Ric
- ⦿ Text any photos with the Legislator to Ric or Kristin so that we can post on our Facebook page

Keys to Successful Meetings

- ⦿ If you have a smart phone, take photo of the appointment schedule
- ⦿ Review position papers
 - Do you feel comfortable explaining each issue?
- ⦿ Read Legislator bios
 - Which Legislators are you meeting with?
- ⦿ Practice talking points out loud
 - Have you adapted them to be your own?



Legislative Packets

- ⦿ 2 position papers
 - Shared DD Vision
 - Supported Decision Making Agreement
- ⦿ Revenue Resolution
- ⦿ GCDSE FY17 Annual Report
- ⦿ DD Infographic



Bills to Watch

- ⦿ HB 54- Voluntary Termination of Life
- ⦿ HB106- Civil Legal Service fund court filing fees
- ⦿ HB 160-Municipal enhanced 911 surcharge
- ⦿ HB 202 (SB80)- Telecomm: Disabled Subscribers
- ⦿ HJR 20- Maintain Health Insurance for individuals currently covered by medicaid expansion
- ⦿ HB 258- Establishing the Commission for the deaf and hard of hearing

Questions:

